JOEL HEFLEY
COLORADO
FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
NATIONAL SECURITY
SMALL BUSINESS
RESOURCES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

July 22, 1998

[redacted]

Dear Ms. Keller:

Thank you for contacting me concerning my amendment to nullify President Clinton's recent Executive Order on equal employment opportunities in the federal workplace. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your comments.

As you may know, President Clinton issued on May 28 an Executive Order that amends President Richard M. Nixon's 1969 Executive Order on Equal Employment Opportunity in the Federal Government. President Clinton's action would include "sexual orientation" to the list of categories that deserve protection under affirmative action policies of the federal government. This list now includes race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age and disability.

I believe the President's recent Executive Order effectively adds a new category to the nation's civil rights laws as they apply to federal workers. Re-writing federal guidelines is an action that should be undertaken solely by Congress. To me, President Clinton's Executive Order clearly oversteps the authority of the Executive Branch.

It is on these grounds that I oppose this Executive Order, and it is why I have introduced an amendment to ensure that no federal funds are used to implement, administer or enforce Mr. Clinton's mandate. My amendment will be debated when the House addresses the Fiscal Year 1999 Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations bill.

I want to emphasize that I do not support discrimination of any kind against any class of citizen. But I also do not believe in giving special protected status because of sexual orientation or for most other reasons. I hope we are moving, in this country, toward a time when there will be no need to grant special rights or privileges to any group.

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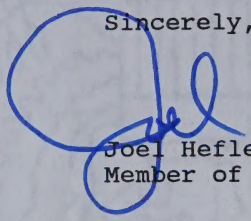
I understand that you and I probably will not agree on this piece of legislation, but I hope I have at least outlined for you the reasons behind my action. Thank you again for sharing your views with me.

Sincerely,



Joel Hefley
Member of Congress

JH:ss